

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-05 PC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EA-10 SAB-01 /088 W

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R 191248Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9337

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 8107

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK, US

SUBJECT: CHAVAN SPEAKS TO THE PARLIAMENTARY CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE

REF: NEW DELHI 8037

1. IN ADDITION TO THOSE REMARKS REPORTED IN REFTEL, DETAILED ACCOUNTS NOW AVAILABLE PRESENT A MORE COMPLETE ACCOUNT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER CHAVAN'S REMARKS TO THE PARLIAMENTARY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS JUNE 18.

2. UNITED STATES: SEVERAL MPS QUESTIONED CHAVAN ON DIEGO GARCIA LINKING CRITICAL INQUIRIES TO THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE'S ENDORSEMENT OF THE EXPANSION. CHAVAN REPLIED THAT INDIA'S VIEWS WERE WELL KNOWN. INDIA OPPOSED ANY FOREIGN MILITARY BASES IN THE REGION. HE ASSERTED THAT ALL LITTORAL STATES WISHED THE INDIAN OCEAN TO BE A ZONE OF PEACE FREE FROM BIG POWER RIVALRY.

3. INDOCHINA: THE MOST OUTSTANDING EVENT OF THE LAST THREE
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MONTHS WAS THE SERVICES OF DEVELOPMENTS IN INDOCHINA. THESE

DEVELOPMENTS WERE IN HARMONY WITH INDIA'S ASSESSMENT. CHAVAN WELCOMED THE STRENGTHENING OF NATIONALISM AND INDEPENDENCE OF THESE COUNTRIES WHERE STRONG NATIONALIST GOVERNMENTS EMERGED. HE NOTED THE ALLEGIANCE TO THE POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT BY THESE COUNTRIES WAS DOUBLY WELCOME. HE SAID INDIA WOULD ENDEAVOR TO ASSIST THESE COUNTRIES WITHIN INDIA'S CAPACITY IN THE TASK OF RECONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION. SEVERAL MPS WERE CRITICAL OF THE DELAY IN APPOINTING INDIAN AMBASSADORS IN SAIGON AND PHNOM PENH. CHAVAN SAID THE APPOINTMENTS WOULD BE MADE AS SOON AS THE TRANSFORMATION FROM MILITARY TO CIVIL ADMINISTRATION WAS COMPLETE AND THE GOVERNMENTS WERE IN A POSITION TO RECEIVE AMBASSADORS.

4. THE SUB CONTINENT: REAL PROGRESS OF NORMALIZATION IN THE SUB-CONTINENT REQUIRES NOT ONLY NORMAL RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN, BUT PAKISTAN SHOULD ALSO SETTLE ITS DIFFERENCE WITH BANGLADESH. THE PROGRESS OF NORMALIZATION WAS NATURALLY CIRCUMSCRIBED BY PAKISTAN'S ACQUIRING MORE AND MORE WEAPONS TO INCREASE ITS MILITARY STRENGTH AND THE LACK OF ADEQUATE RESPONSE BY PAKISTAN TO INDIAN INITIATIVES. CHAVAN SAID INDIA HAD TAKEN REPEATED INITIATIVES SINCE SIMLA ALTHOUGH PAKISTAN HAS NOT RESPONDED WITH LIKE ENTHUSIASM FOR GENUINE NORMALIZATION. REFERRING TO THE INCONCLUSIVE CIVIL AIR TALKS IN NEW DELHI, CHAVAN SAID THE DOOR WAS NOT CLOSED TO A SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM AND THE TALKS WOULD CONTINUE. CHAVAN SAID THE RECENT AGREEMENT WITH BANGLADESH ON FARAKKA MARKED A GOOD BEGINNING. HE ADDED THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE DETERMINED TO SOLVE ANY PROBLEM BETWEEN THEM IN A SPIIT OF MUTUAL ACCOMMODATION AND FRIENDSHIP.

5. FOREGOING BASED ON PRESS ACCOUNTS. THERE IS NO VARIANCE IN CHAVAN'S REMARKS FROM PREVIOUS GOI POSITIONS.SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE08107
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750214-0236
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750635/aaaabfhh.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NEW DELHI 8037
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAR 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <09 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHAVAN SPEAKS TO THE PARLIAMENTARY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK, US, (CHAVAN, Y B)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006